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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Confirmation No. 5469

Art Unit: 2155

Examiner: K. Q. Dinh

For: **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROCESSING
AND PRESENTING INTERNET USAGE
INFORMATION TO FACILITATE USER
COMMUNICATIONS**

APPELLANTS' REPLY BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 41.41

MS Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Appellants submit this reply brief in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 41.41 in response to the Examiner's Answer mailed May 4, 2006.

REMARKS

Independent claims 7, 14 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Hoyer and Smith. The Examiner acknowledges that Hoyer “does not specifically disclose transferring data to [a] user when [the] user [is] connected to a web site[.]” (Examiner’s Answer, item 2, page 4.) However, the Examiner relies on Smith as disclosing “when [a] user [is connected] to a web server requesting [] a resource, the server looks up the location in a table and forward[s] a copy of [the] resource to the client.” (*Id.*, pages 4-5.) The Examiner contends that it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to combine Hoyer

and Smith to achieve the claimed invention. In particular, the Examiner states that “it would have enabled users to easily retrieve web pages and resource information from web servers at a desired location in a communications network and therefore improve[] web site performance.” (*Id.*, page 5.)

Independent claim 7 recites “**monitoring usage** of the monitored website; and **transmitting data representative of the usage** to the user by way of a **monitor window** when the user is connected to any other website on the communication network” (Emphasis added.) The present invention monitors a website’s usage and transmits data representative of the usage via a monitor window to the user. In contrast, and as acknowledged by the Examiner, the combination of Hoyer and Smith “enables users to easily retrieve web pages and resource information from web pages.” The combination of Hoyer and Smith neither discloses, nor suggests, monitoring usage information and transmitting data representative of the usage to a user.

Appellants submit that Smith merely discloses a method for maintaining the integrity of URL references (*i.e.*, hyperlinks) to resources embedded within web sites. The resources themselves are not website usage information, but rather web pages, documents, static content, etc. Smith addresses the problems associated with broken hyperlinks for resources that have changed their location. When a server receives a message from a client requesting a resource via its URL reference, the server looks up the location of the resource in an indirection table, obtains a hyperlink to its current location, and forwards a copy of the resource to the client. The indirection table contains entries that map a URL to each resource. As resources are moved or deleted, their indirection table entry must be updated. Smith, column 11, lines 48-63.

Independent claims 14, 15 and 21 recite subject matter similar to that quoted above from claim 7. Appellants submit that claims 14, 15 and 21 are patentable over the combination of Hoyer and Smith for at least the same reasons demonstrated above with respect to claim 7. Claims 8-11 and 20 depend from independent claim 7.

Claims 22-26 depend from independent claim 21. Appellants submit that claims 8-11, 20 and 22-26 are patentable over the combination of Hoyer and Smith for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims.

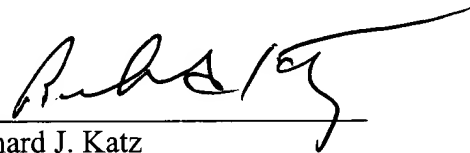
CONCLUSION

For all of the reasons set forth above, the rejections of claims 7-11, 14, 15 and 20-26 should be reversed. Appellants respectfully request that the application be remanded to the Primary Examiner with an instruction to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections, and pass the case to allowance.

Favorable consideration of this Reply Brief is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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